



# February 2008 Newsletter

## Capitol Happenings - IAA Legislative Update

It has been a busy couple of weeks for the Iowa General Assembly, as they move quickly through the legislative session. The Iowa House of Representatives passed historic legislation this week. House File 2212, which bans smoking in most public places in Iowa, passed the House in a 55-44 vote. Budget targets were also released this week. Budget targets are set by House and Senate leadership to provide a guide to the work of the appropriations subcommittees. The budget established by the General Assembly provides for only 4% growth (Governor's Culver's proposed budget allowed for 6% growth) and increases funding in the cash reserve and economic emergency fund. With such limited spending over last year's funding amounts, the news was not good for appropriations chairs and appropriations subcommittee chairs, who will ultimately have to craft lean budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

The speed at which things are moving is highlighted by the fact that the health and human services appropriations bill was released this week – much earlier in session than in past years. March 7<sup>th</sup> marks the first funnel, when all Senate bills must be reported out of a Senate committee and all House bills must be reported out of a House committee to remain eligible for further action and vote. The funnel is a self-imposed deadline that helps legislators move toward their target adjournment of April 22, 2008. The second funnel is March 28<sup>th</sup> when all Senate bills must be reported out of a House committee and House bills must be reported out of a Senate committee to continue to "stay alive" in the process.

## Iowa General Assembly Contact Information

Joint Education Appropriations Subcommittee

### Senate Members:

**Frank Wood** (D, District 42), Chair

**Wally E. Horn** (D, District 17), Vice Chair

**Nancy J. Boettger** (R, District 29), Ranking Member

**Herman C. Quirnbach** (D, District 23)

**Mark Zieman** (R, District 8)

House Members:

**Cindy Winckler** (D, District 86), Chair

**Andrew Wenthe** (D, District 18), Vice Chair

**Royd Chambers** (R, District 5), Ranking Member

**Carmine Boal** (R, District 70)

**Mark Davitt** (D, District 74)

**The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Brooke Findley at [bfindley@sppg.com](mailto:bfindley@sppg.com) or 515-243-2000.**

**Cecil Dolecheck** (R, District 96)  
**Marcella Frevert** (D, District 7)  
**Mary Mascher** (D, District 77)  
**Mike May** (R, District 6)

### **Senate Standing Education Committee**

**Brian Schoenjahn** (D, District 12), **Chair**  
**Staci Appel** (D, District 37), **Vice Chair**  
**Dave Mulder** (R, District 2), **Ranking Member**  
**Daryl Beall** (D, District 25)  
**Nancy J. Boettger** (R, District 29)  
**Michael Connolly** (D, District 14)  
**Bill Heckroth** (D, District 9)  
**David Johnson** (R, District 3)  
**Keith A. Kreiman** (D, District 47)  
**Paul McKinley** (R, District 36)  
**Herman C. Quirnbach** (D, District 23)  
**Becky Schmitz** (D, District 45)  
**Frank Wood** (D, District 42)  
**Brad Zaun** (R, District 32)  
**Mark Zieman** (R, District 8)

### **House Standing Education Committee**

**Roger Wendt** (D, District 2), **Chair**  
**Mary Mascher** (D, District 77), **Vice Chair**  
**Mike May** (R, District 6), **Ranking Member**  
**Ako Abdul-Samad** (D, District 66)  
**Carmine Boal** (R, District 70)  
**Polly Bukta** (D, District 26)  
**Royd Chambers** (R, District 5)  
**Dennis Cohoon** (D, District 88)  
**Cecil Dolecheck** (R, District 96)  
**Ro Foege** (D, District 29)  
**Greg Forristall** (R, District 98)  
**Elesha Gayman** (D, District 84)  
**Lisa Heddens** (D, District 46)  
**Jeff Kaufmann** (R, District 79)  
**Doris Kelley** (D, District 20)  
**Linda Miller** (R, District 82)  
**Eric Palmer** (D, District 75)  
**J. Scott Raecker** (R, District 63)  
**Art Staed** (D, District 37)  
**Jodi Tymeson** (R, District 73)  
**Tami Wiencek** (R, District 21)

**Cindy Winckler** (D, District 86)  
**Philip L. Wise** (D, District 92)

The **General Assembly website** is an excellent resource for information on current legislative activities and the policy process.

For more information on IAA legislative activities, please contact Erin Drinnin at [edrinnin@sppg.com](mailto:edrinnin@sppg.com) or (515) 243-2000

### **President Bush Proposing Devastating Cut to Afterschool Funding**

President Bush is proposing a devastating cut to afterschool funds and a drastic restructure of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program that would convert it to a voucher program. This \$300 million budget cut could potentially leave more than 1,500 children in Iowa without afterschool programming!

Please contact your U.S. Senators and Congressmen today to let them know how important afterschool is to Iowa's children and families.

- U.S. Senator Charles 'Chuck' Grassley (202) 224-3744
- U.S. District Three: Congressman Leonard Boswell Washington, DC (202) 225-3806
- Senator Tom Harkin: Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3254 Phone (202) 224-4633 TDD
- U.S. District Five: Congressman Steve King Washington, DC (202) 225-4426
- U.S. District One: Congressman Bruce Braley Washington, DC (202) 225-2911
- U.S. District Four: Congressman Tom Latham: Washington, DC Toll Free: 866-428-5642 (202) 225-5476
- U.S. District Two: Congressman Dave Loebsack Washington, DC (202) 225-6576

Together we can send a message to Congress that afterschool programs are critically important to the success of Iowa's children and youth and that the President's proposal should be rejected. The

higher the volume of calls and emails to Congress, the louder our message will be, so encourage your partners, colleagues and friends to contact our Senators and Congressmen on behalf of the thousand of Iowa youth who need a safe, productive and inspiring place to go during the afterschool hours.

### **Afterschool Provider Seeking Educational Reform in Romania Visits the United States for National Afterschool Association Conference**

Madlena Taplinga, a Romanian afterschool provider, will attend the National Afterschool Association (NAA) Conference in March in hopes of discovering valuable insights into afterschool policy and programming that may improve her campaign for afterschool reform in Romania. Like many afterschool programs in the United States, Romanian afterschool programs are linked with the school day. However, unlike many schools in the United States, Romanian schools do not actively encourage students to participate in afterschool programs. Ms. Taplinga explains in her emails with Leslie Glenn, President of the Iowa School-Age Care Alliance, that often teachers view afterschool tutors as competitors for monetary benefits. And, because the Romanian educational system is designed upon competitive qualifications to evaluate student achievement, private tutoring after school is a necessity that only the most affluent families can afford.

Ms. Taplinga is seeking reform of Romania's current afterschool tutoring system. She provides an afterschool program in which students receive homework help, and would like to create a theatre program for children and youth to participate in when out of school, including during school vacations, a time when there are virtually no out-of-school opportunities. In an email to Ms. Glenn, Ms. Taplinga writes:

*Unfortunately what I want to do is not being supported by the most teachers because they have no benefits from this.*

*In our country schools and kindergartens are closed during the vacations and kids and teens have no place to go. They stay home alone or in*

*some cases [stay] with some grandparent. Teens are staying on the streets, in pubs, bars, or other places like this. You can see a 12 year old kid in some bar where adults are drinking alcohol and smoking. For them there is no other place to spend their free time.*

*We are trying now to develop a new project and make a theatre for kids and teens. There are many things to do to change our educational system...*

With the help of Ms. Glenn and the National Afterschool Association, Ms. Taplinga was able to obtain an official invitation from the NAA allowing her to leave Romania, and will attend the NAA Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in early March.

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance commends Ms. Taplinga on her efforts to reform Romania's afterschool system and wish her well in Florida in March!

### **Wellmark Foundation Releases 2008 Request for Proposals**

The Wellmark Foundation 2008 RFP seeks to support projects in childhood obesity prevention and community-based wellness and prevention. There are several significant changes to the application process the RFP highlights around the introduction of a Letter of Interest, the ability to seek funding support for up to two-year project periods, and enhanced guidance around project budgeting. The Wellmark Foundation will host an applicant teleconference on March 5th to further discuss the grant changes. Call-in information is given within the RFP.

The 2008 RFP is accessible via the following link:  
[http://www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/2008\\_RFP\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.wellmark.com/foundation/apply/2008_RFP_Brochure.pdf)

For more information contact Michelle Rich at [mrich@sppg.com](mailto:mrich@sppg.com) or (515) 243-2000.